

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MARVIN K. LOCKE,  
CDCR #T-74574

Plaintiff,

vs.

JANE DOE 1; JANE DOE 2;  
GEORGE A. NEOTTI; MATTHEW  
CATE; JOHN DOE 3,

Defendants.

Civil No. 11cv0734 JAH (PCL)

**ORDER DISMISSING FIRST  
AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR  
FAILING TO STATE A CLAIM  
PURSUANT TO  
28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) & 1915A(b)**

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On April 8, 2011, Marvin Locke (“Plaintiff”), a state inmate currently incarcerated at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility located in San Diego, and proceeding pro se, filed a civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. In addition, Plaintiff filed a Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (“IFP”) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). On August 15, 2011, the Court granted Plaintiff’s Motion to Proceed IFP but sua sponte dismissed his Complaint for failing to state a claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) & 1915A(b). *See* Aug. 15, 2011 Order at 7. However, Plaintiff was granted leave to file an Amended Complaint in order to correct the deficiencies of pleading identified by the Court. *Id.* On September 23, 2011, Plaintiff filed his First Amended Complaint (“FAC”).

1       **II. SUA SPONTE SCREENING PER 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e) AND 1915A**

2           As the Court stated in its previous Order, the Prison Litigation Reform Act's amendments  
 3 to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 obligates the Court to review complaints filed by all persons proceeding IFP  
 4 and by those, like Plaintiff, who are "incarcerated or detained in any facility [and] accused of,  
 5 sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, violations of criminal law or the terms or conditions  
 6 of parole, probation, pretrial release, or diversionary program," "as soon as practicable after  
 7 docketing." *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A(b). Under these provisions, the Court  
 8 must sua sponte dismiss any prisoner civil action and all other IFP complaints, or any portions  
 9 thereof, which are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim, or which seek damages from  
 10 defendants who are immune. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A; *Lopez v. Smith*, 203  
 11 F.3d 1122, 1126-27 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (§ 1915(e)(2)); *Resnick v. Hayes*, 213 F.3d 443,  
 12 446 n.1 (9th Cir. 2000) (§ 1915A).

13           Before amendment by the PLRA, the former 28 U.S.C. § 1915(d) permitted sua sponte  
 14 dismissal of only frivolous and malicious claims. *Lopez*, 203 F.3d at 1126, 1130. However, 28  
 15 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) and § 1915A now mandate that the court reviewing an IFP or prisoner's suit  
 16 make and rule on its own motion to dismiss before directing that the Complaint be served by the  
 17 U.S. Marshal pursuant to FED.R.CIV.P. 4(c)(2). *Id.* at 1127 ("[S]ection 1915(e) not only permits,  
 18 but requires a district court to dismiss an in forma pauperis complaint that fails to state a  
 19 claim."); *see also Barren v. Harrington*, 152 F.3d 1193, 1194 (9th Cir. 1998) (discussing  
 20 § 1915A).

21           "[W]hen determining whether a complaint states a claim, a court must accept as true all  
 22 allegations of material fact and must construe those facts in the light most favorable to the  
 23 plaintiff." *Resnick*, 213 F.3d at 447; *Barren*, 152 F.3d at 1194 (noting that § 1915(e)(2)  
 24 "parallels the language of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6)"). Here, however, even  
 25 presuming Plaintiff's allegations true, the Court finds his Complaint fails to state a claim upon  
 26 which relief can be granted. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B); 1915A(b); *Lopez*, 203 F.3d at  
 27 1126-27; *Resnick*, 213 F.3d at 446, n.1.

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1           **A.     42 U.S.C. § 1983**

2           To state a claim under § 1983, Plaintiff must allege that: (1) the conduct he complains  
 3 of was committed by a person acting under color of state law; and (2) that conduct violated a  
 4 right secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States. *Humphries v. County of Los*  
 5 *Angeles*, 554 F.3d 1170, 1184 (9th Cir. 2009) (citing *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988)).

6           **B.     Waiver of Defendants**

7           In the Court's previous Order, Plaintiff was informed that any Defendants not renamed  
 8 or claims not re-alleged in his Amended Complaint would be deemed to have been waived.  
 9 *See* Aug. 15, 2011 Order at 7 (citing *King v. Atiyeh*, 814 F.2d 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987)). Plaintiff  
 10 has filed his First Amended Complaint but he no longer names George Neotti or Matthew Cate  
 11 as Defendants. *See* FAC at 1-2. Thus, Defendants Neotti and Cate are **DISMISSED** from this  
 12 action. The Clerk of Court is directed to terminate these Defendants from the docket.

13           **B.     Inadequate medical care claims**

14           Plaintiff claims that his Eighth Amendment rights were violated when Defendants failed  
 15 to provide immediate medical care to his serious medical needs. *See* FAC at 3-5. In order to  
 16 assert a claim for inadequate medical care, Plaintiff must allege facts which are sufficient to  
 17 show that each person sued was "deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs." *Helling*  
 18 *v. McKinney*, 509 U.S. 25, 32 (1993); *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 106 (1976). Prison  
 19 officials must purposefully ignore or fail to respond to Plaintiff's pain or medical needs; neither  
 20 an inadvertent failure to provide adequate medical care, nor mere negligence or medical  
 21 malpractice constitutes a constitutional violation. *Estelle*, 429 U.S. at 105-06.

22           Thus, to state a claim, Plaintiff must allege facts sufficient to show both: (1) an  
 23 objectively "serious" medical need, i.e., one that a reasonable doctor would think worthy of  
 24 comment, one which significantly affects his daily activities, or one which is chronic and  
 25 accompanied by substantial pain, *see Doty v. County of Lassen*, 37 F.3d 540, 546 (9th Cir. 1994);  
 26 and (2) a subjective, and "sufficiently culpable" state of mind on the part of each individual  
 27 Defendant. *See Wilson v. Seiter*, 501 U.S. 294, 302 (1991).

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1 Plaintiff claims that he was suffering from “intense stomach pain” on April 22, 2010.  
 2 FAC at 3. A correctional officer called for “medical emergency” and an “A.T.V. (emergency  
 3 vehicle).” *Id.* Jane Doe #1 arrived and “took Plaintiff’s vital signs” and said she would put  
 4 Plaintiff on a list to be examined by a Doctor. *Id.* Later that evening, Plaintiff woke again with  
 5 “intense pain,” and again the emergency medical team was called. *Id.* Jane Doe #2 arrived and  
 6 took his vital signs. *Id.* Even though Plaintiff told her he was in “excruciating pain,” Jane Doe  
 7 #2 indicated that due to his vital signs being “good,” there was nothing wrong with him and it  
 8 was probably “just something he ate.” *Id.*.. The next morning Plaintiff went to the medical clinic  
 9 where he was examined, given x-rays and had blood taken for testing. *Id.* On April 25, 2010,  
 10 Plaintiff had surgery to remove kidney stones. *Id.*

11 A mere “difference of medical opinion” between a prisoner and his physicians concerning  
 12 the appropriate course of treatment is “insufficient, as a matter of law, to establish deliberate  
 13 indifference.” *Jackson v. McIntosh*, 90 F.3d 330, 332 (9th Cir. 1996). Here, Plaintiff’s facts  
 14 show that there was a disagreement in the diagnosis and in fact, he was given medical treatment  
 15 within twenty four hours of the time he first complained of pain. The facts he alleges describes  
 16 medical personnel coming to his cell, examining him and three days later he was given surgery.  
 17 Inadequate treatment due to malpractice, or even gross negligence, does not amount to a  
 18 constitutional violation. *Estelle*, 429 U.S. at 106; *Wood v. Housewright*, 900 F.2d 1332, 1334  
 19 (9th Cir. 1990).

20 Once again, Plaintiff has failed to allege any facts from which the Court could find that  
 21 Defendants acted with deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. Accordingly,  
 22 Plaintiff’s inadequate medical care claims are dismissed for failing to state a claim upon which  
 23 relief could be granted.

24 For all these reasons, the Court finds that Plaintiff’s First Amended Complaint must be  
 25 dismissed sua sponte for failing to state a claim upon which relief can be granted pursuant to 28  
 26 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A(b). *See Lopez*, 203 F.3d at 1126-27; *Resnick*, 213 F.3d at  
 27 446 n.1.

28 / / /

1       **III. CONCLUSION AND ORDER**

2           Good cause appearing, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

3           (1) Defendants George A. Neotti and Matthew Cate are **DISMISSED** from this action.

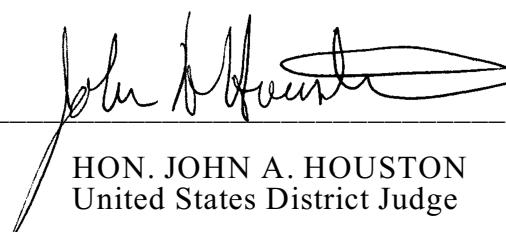
4           *See King*, 814 F.2d 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

5           **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

6           (2) Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint is **DISMISSED** without prejudice for failing  
7           to state a claim upon which relief may be granted pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) and  
8           § 1915A(b). However, Plaintiff is further **GRANTED** thirty (30) days leave from the date this  
9           Order is filed in which to file a Second Amended Complaint which cures all the deficiencies of  
10          pleading noted above. Plaintiff's Amended Complaint must be complete in itself without  
11          reference to his previous pleading. *See S.D. CAL. CIVLR 15.1*. Defendants not named and all  
12          claims not re-alleged in the Amended Complaint will be considered waived. *See King v. Atiyeh*,  
13          814 F.2d 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

14           (3) The Clerk of Court shall mail Plaintiff a copy of the Court approved form § 1983  
15          complaint.

16           DATED: 11-21-11

17             
18           HON. JOHN A. HOUSTON  
19           United States District Judge